WHO IS PROTECTING THE TERRIBLE MR. SMYTHE?

Martin Dies "overlooks" a Native Fascist

By Jackson Paine

On October 14, 1936 John C. Metcalfe, Dies committee investigator, left Chicago for a trip to Chattanooga, Tenn., and New York City.

Less than a month earlier Metcalfe, who will be remembered as the Chicago Times reporter who joined the Bund and exposed it in his paper, had dined with a person he himself described as a Nazi agent. The government paid the check.

Metcalfe arrived in Chattanooga on the 15th. and checked in at a hotel. On the 16th., accompanied by Charles M. Fain, a court reporter whose office is in the Hamilton National Bank Building, the Dies committee investigator questioned George W. Christians, a funny-money native Nazi. The typed question-and-answer interview was 21 pages long.

Ten days later Metcalfe was in New York. In the presence of a stenographer obtained from the AA Public Stenographic Bureau, 170 Broadway, he questioned a long list of miscellaneous Americans who would be Hitlers.

Of particular interest are two of the groups he investigated., the American National Socialists and Protestant War Veterans and their fuehrer, Edward James Smythe.

Dutifully Metcalfe reported his investigations to Chairman Dies. With his reports the sleuth enclosed an original and two carbons of the examinations.

In Washington these important statements found an empty pigeonhole, where they are still collecting dust. I don't know the fruits of the meal with the Nazi agent, but I do know that no person of this description was ever haled before the committee in its public hearings.

What about Christians? Well, he supported the committee, which never did anything about him, though they had a mass of damning evidence besides what Metcalfe got. The courts finally put Christians away on June 4 of this year for trying to undermine the morale of our soldiers.

What about the so-called National Socialist gang? They were the forerunners of the Christian Front. Had they been exposed immediately, this country might have been spared the shame and bloodshed they have since heaped upon us.

What about Smythe? That's an even bigger disgrace. Here's what happened.

In the summer of 1939 Dies finally got around to calling Smythe before the committee. Smythe was surprised and angry, for the many native fascists had understood they were not going to be bothered by the Dies committee. On July 28, Smythe wrote Herr H. R. Hoffman, Editor of the News From Germany, in Bavaria. Herr Hoffman is well-known to Dies, whose files show detailed records of an average of about 60,000 pounds of Nazi propaganda a year that Herr Hoffman sent to the United States before Pearl Harbor.

After thanking Hoffman for the propaganda he received and informing him that "This organization (the Protestant War Veterans) is leading the fight to keep America from an alliance with Great Britain or France and joining in a war against your Country (sic)....Americans will never fight Germany again..." Smythe announced he was to appear before the Dies committee August first.

Hoffman must have smiled when he read that. Smythe did not appear before the Dies committee on August first.

On August 29, in the middle of the afternoon, Dies called out Smythe's name in the hearing room. There was no answer. Then, through the questioning of Rhea Whitley, committee counsel, Dies established that Smythe was "duly subpenaed."

It's a very serious matter not to comply with the subpena of a Congressional committee. Five Communists who did appear before the committee but who refused to answer certain questions were summarily held in contempt by the Committee and the House and are currently awaiting trial in the Federal Court in Washington, charged with contempt of the committee. But Smythe, who did not even appear, thus clearly and unquestionably in contempt - was he treated the same way?

Even a cursory examination of the record--pages 4268 to 4274 of volume 6--shows how he was treated.

Rhea Whitley testified he had obtained Smythe's files from Donald Shea, former secretary of the organization. Whitley had the files beside him. They showed Whitley

continued, that Smythe had a half-dozen similar organizations, all fraudulently called "Protestant." Smythe claimed up to 7,000,000 members and followers. Correspondence lists read like a bluebook of American fascists. Included were quite a few pure-blooded Nazi agents, some of whom have since been jailed.

On page 4271 Dies interrupted Whitley, who was describing the wealth of material he had, showing financing and interlocking relationships, and said, "As a matter of fact, he duped a number of people into lending him aid, did he not?" A few seconds later Dies again interrupted.

"Many people, some of whom are very prominent people, were drawn into this thing, or were duped into it..." and Noah Mason, the fumbling old darling of the Chicago Tribune--the committee member who describes himself as an "old stogie"--volunteered the statement, "It was a pure racket, then." Dies came back to the defense of the unnamed"substantial people" who were "drawn into this business."

Whitley then shows that Smythe was at once violently anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic that some of his associates had been pestering the committee to investigate the Catholic Church, that, as he put it, "They were racketeering on hate." Dies again interrupted, this time for a bit of red-baiting, to prove what Whitley was saying.

The Congressman and committee member Jerry Voorhis, who makes the false pretense of being a liberal, wanted to know the details of this amazing and voluminous correspondence in which all of America's more important Nazis were involved. Whitley replied with a statement that proved Dies' great solicitude for these "dupes" was closer to a desire to shield them. It follows:

> "Mr. Voorhis. ... They are not simply people to whom he wrote, but people who wrote back to him and seemed to be interested in what he was doing?
> "Mr. Whitley. That is right. He could write to anyone, and the response or the extent of the correspondence would indicate how closely they were affiliated."

Frantically Dies rushed to the defense of the fascists. He made a long speech, saying that while they had a mass of material, the people involved were innocent and their names should not be mentioned, "because there have been so many people who have been duped in this country by the Nazi and Fascist organizations that if we should mention them all it would make a tremendous record." He concluded by again expressing

his concern for the good names of these "prominent, substantial" people, saying, "it might be well to consider all these matters in executive session [that is, in complete privacy] before we make them public."

Whitley made a last effort, saying, "Mr. Chairman, I may say all these organizations that I have mentioned here come in the category of those actively participating." Dies replied, "I know, but that brings up the question whether it is right to disclose the names of these people and let these other people [meaning the "innocents"] get by... We can make this correspondence public at a later date."

Needless to say, Mr. Dies did one of his super-super jobs. He has continued to protect the fascists. The "later date" has never come.

For complete dishonesty this incident has no equal in the long record of dishonesty that is Dies' and the committee's. It is necessary only to compare it with the thousand of pages of hearsay, gossip and slander aimed against liberal and labor people with which the committee's printed record abounds. For hundreds of pages anti-labor, fascisti witnesses ramble on, uninterrupted for proof and urged on to bigger and better lie Or compare it with the vicious attack on government employees, the incident called "sordi by President Roosevelt, when the committee attempted to purge over a thousand federal workers alleged to have belonged to the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Mr. Mason opened the hearing on October 25, 1939, by saying:

> "Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that the Chair carry out the instructions given him in executive session yesterday, and that this statement and list be made a part of the record; <u>so that it is a privileged matter</u>." [My emphas

Had this not been done the papers couldn't have carried this list for fear of libel suits. Once "privileged" they were immune and there ensued one of the largest witch-hunts of the 20th century. Nothing has done more to undermine the confidence of the American people in the servants of their democracy.

But to get back to Smythe. Although unmolested by the committee, his Nazi activity, in spite of the committee, will soon end.

Fortunately the criminal division of the Department of Justice has decided to do something about the Hitlerites who shout for the blood of Jews and Catholics. Within a short while they will catch up with Smythe, whomthey are now investigating.

Unfortunately, he has been unusually successful in getting outlets for his slime. For a long while he ran a horrible column in the suppressed Nazi journal, "Publicity," found by the government to be seditious. He took enough time out of his Jew-baiting and Catholic-baiting to propose his "cabinet" when he became fuehrer. Included were Lindbergh, Clare Hoffman, Wheeler, Reynolds and their kind.

Today he aspires to the space in the gutter vacated by "Social Justice." He is putting out a rag he calls "our Common Cause."

That his "cause" is Hitler's is shown in the accompanying documents.